



# THE LEAHY-PASCRELL CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT: *Bringing law enforcement tracing into the 21st Century*

## THE REALITY OF CRIME GUN TRACING TODAY:

- Americans would be shocked to learn that the ATF is prohibited *by law* from electronically searching through millions of gun sales records when tracing firearms *used in crimes* across the country.
- As a result of this absurd prohibition, **the ATF is stuck in the 19th Century** when it comes to investigating and tracing crime guns.
- Millions of records are stored on paper, with **thousands of boxes overflowing the hallways and even in shipping containers in the parking lot of the National Tracing Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia.**
- The ATF has been told if it places more boxes inside the facility, **the floor may collapse.**



- After each crime gun, the ATF is forced to **manually re-create the complex chain of custody from the manufacturer to the hands of the criminal**, ultimately contacting individual dealers or searching through millions of paper files.
- The National Tracing Center will receive **more than 100 million sales records this year**, many of which are in terrible condition. Some have been damaged by floods, fires, and vandalism by dealers.

- This laborious process **drains resources and threatens delays in criminal investigations** by federal, state, and local law enforcement – all of whom depend upon the ATF to quickly trace crime guns.
- The ATF receives **1,600 trace requests each day**. This is not how law enforcement should be forced to trace crime guns.



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### **THE LEAHY-PASCRELL CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT WOULD:**

- **Enable the ATF to electronically search sales records already in its possession**
  - It would *not expand* the universe of records the ATF is able to access.
  - It would only allow searches *for the limited purposes of criminal and national security investigations only*.



- This change will empower licensed firearms dealers to **voluntarily provide** the ATF with electronic access to sales records for these limited purposes, so dealers could choose to not be burdened with maintaining physical possession of all their sales records and manually responding to every ATF crime gun trace.
- The ATF will be **strictly prohibited** from electronically searching records for *personally identifiable information*.

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### **SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATION:**

- The bill last Congress was endorsed by the nation's leading law enforcement organizations, including: Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

